

Greg Long named Mississippi College head women's basketball coach

Special to The Clinton Courier

Mississippi College Athletic Director Mike Jones has announced Greg Long as the head women's basketball coach. Long comes to Clinton after leading the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

"We are excited to bring Greg into the Mississippi College family," said Jones. "He has experience in both Division II and the Gulf South Conference and has been a part of winning programs his entire career. We look forward to having him lead our women's basketball program." Long led the Cotton Blossoms to a twenty to eleven mark during the 2019-20 campaign, along with guiding them to the Great American Conference Championship Game. The twenty wins marked the most by a first-year head coach during the NCAA era for the green and white and was the first twenty-plus win season for the program since the 1997-98 campaign. UAM was tough on defense as it set a program and GAC record holding opponents to 59.2 points per game. Under his tutelage, Berniezha Tidwell and Pamela Bethel earned All-GAC honors, while Tidwell also garnered Division II Conference Commissioners Association 2019-20 All-Central Region First Team laurels. Prior to his stint in Monticello, Long worked at the University of Central Arkansas under head coach Sandra Rushing. Long was an assistant coach for the Sugar Bears from 2015-2017 and was promoted to associate head coach.

Long began his collegiate coaching career at Delta State University. He served as a volunteer assistant coach for the Lady



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Newly-named MC head women's basketball coach Greg Long is pictured with his wife, Jill, and his daughter, Aubree.

Statesmen during the 2005-06 season and returned to the Mississippi Delta in 2010, where he served as an assistant coach until 2012. Prior to his time at DSU, Long was a successful high school coach in his hometown of Ocala, Florida – first as an assistant coach for the boys team at Ocala Forest, where he helped guide the team to their first winning season in more than a decade; then as a head coach at Trinity Catholic.

Long played collegiately at Chowan College under Bob Burke, who retired as the third-winningest coach in North Carolina collegiate history behind Dean Smith and Mike Krzyzewski. Long played high school basketball at Vanguard High School under legendary Florida high school coach Jim Haley, who compiled 655 wins and three state championships. In 1997, Long played on Haley's final team to be ranked number one in the state and made a run to the Elite 8 en route to a twenty-one to eleven record for the season.

"As a coach, I think you always have an eye on a job that you would consider

a dream job," said Long. "Mississippi College fits that for me. The vision that Dr. Thompson and Coach Jones have for Mississippi College are in alignment with what I think an institution and athletic department should be. We want to win the hearts, minds and spirits of those we come in touch with and be a light for this great community and state. If we do that, the on-court part will take care of itself." Long is married to the former Jill Trimmer of Marietta, Georgia. They have one daughter, Aubree.



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